

INITIATIVE 170

I, Ralph Munro, Secretary of State of the State of Washington and custodian of its seal, hereby certify that, according to the records on file in my office, the attached copy of Initiative Measure No. 170 to the Legislature is a true and correct copy as it was received by this office.

1 AN ACT Relating to congressional voting; and creating new sections.

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Be it adopted and enacted by the legislature
4 of the state of Washington that it hereby applies to the congress of
5 the United States, under the authority of Article V of the United
6 States Constitution, that congress hereby call for a constitutional
7 convention, to be independent of, and not subject to rule by, congress,
8 for the purpose of considering section 2 of this act to the United
9 States Constitution and any and all other amendments or other business
10 the convention may deem proper and necessary for its consideration.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The proposed amendment is as follows:

12 (1) The voting authority of congress assembled, in committee and
13 general session, is hereby revoked and all such authority shall
14 hereforth be assigned to the people by means of direct ballot or vote.

15 (2) Access for balloting by the people for such direct votes shall
16 be universal and adequate funding for same shall be mandatory upon the
17 federal government. Access shall include, but not be limited to mail,
18 telephone, remotely connected voting machine, personal computer, and

1 interactive television. Such votes shall be tabulated, recorded, and
2 maintained in a central location under such security and procedures as
3 may be directed by law. Such security measures as are necessary to
4 ensure the sanctity of the direct ballot are to be employed, but
5 nothing in this provision shall be construed in any way to restrict the
6 right of the people to direct ballot except as directed in subsection
7 (5) of this section. No poll or release of information of any
8 incomplete vote made by direct ballot is permitted until the time
9 period allowed for such voting has expired. No type of electioneering
10 is allowed during any such vote and penalties for such violations as
11 prescribed may be made by law.

12 (3) All members on all committees of congress, whether standing or
13 special, shall be chosen by random lot at the beginning of each term of
14 congress and no member of congress shall serve on the same committee
15 more than two consecutive terms.

16 (4) The authority of direct ballot by the people being necessary
17 for the passage of any legislation before congress, all general
18 assembly and committee meetings, shall be public including, but not
19 limited to, all testimony presented and all debate and discussion by
20 congressional members. Procedures for access by the public for direct
21 inquiry regarding any matter before a committee shall be established by
22 law.

23 (5) The direct ballot in any committee of congress, shall be
24 limited to those voters whose representative or senator shall be seated
25 on such committees. All citizens of the United States, if they
26 otherwise be a legally qualified voter as specified in this
27 Constitution, may cast a vote in direct ballot in any question before
28 congress assembled, or before each house. Any member of congress may
29 vote in any direct ballot, but that vote shall count no more than any
30 other citizen's vote, and no member of congress is permitted by vote or
31 other parliamentary procedure to impair, thwart, altar, impede, or veto
32 a vote made by direct ballot. However, laws regarding limits upon
33 debate, public access for direct inquiry and comment, and all other
34 such matters as may be required for the orderly process of legislation
35 may be enacted.

36 (6) A reasonable voting period, not to be less than one week for
37 committee votes, and two weeks for each general vote of each house of
38 congress, or congress assembled, shall be regularly established by law
39 and not subject to change except for good cause as specified by law.

1 The president may shorten an election term for good cause, but may not
2 shorten any election period already in progress. The manners,
3 procedures, and specified number of bills that may be voted on in any
4 voting period, together with establishing a procedure for substitution
5 of matters before vote as extraordinary circumstances may require,
6 shall be established by law. The power of the president to veto
7 legislation, together with the power of judicial review by the supreme
8 court and its inferior courts shall be unaffected by this Article.

9 (7) In all cases, except where otherwise specified in this
10 Constitution, a simple majority vote in direct ballot of those casting
11 votes in that ballot, in any matter before committee or either house,
12 shall be deemed sufficient for passage. Bills and amendments to
13 proposed bills may be submitted for consideration in either committee
14 or in either house, by any voter, in such form and manner as may be
15 prescribed by law. Such law however, at the minimum, shall include a
16 reasonable time period of public notification of such bills and
17 amendments prior to a vote; the establishment of a nonpartisan system
18 available to all citizens to aid in the composition, presentation,
19 research, and all other such aspects of legislation that be necessary
20 to present proper bills and amendments for consideration; a fair and
21 just method of consolidating similar bills and amendments; a procedure
22 for reasonable reconsideration of such consolidation; and a procedure
23 guaranteeing public scrutiny and access to such activities herein
24 prescribed.

25 (8) The people, by direct ballot, shall have the power to enforce
26 this Article by appropriate legislation.

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